Trans girl at center of Supreme Court case wins West Virginia state championship

Trans teen Becky Pepper-Jackson took home a state championship, with a Supreme Court decision looming for her.

Karleigh Webb
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Trans teen athlete Becky Pepper-Jackson poses for a portrait in front of the Supreme Court in Washington in January. | Photo by Maxine Wallace/The Washington Post via Getty Images

The U.S. Supreme Court will have the final say on whether Bridgeport, W.V., high school sophomore **Becky Pepper-Jackson,** a transgender girl who has had to fight to compete in school sports, will get to compete beyond this school year.

Her fate was in her hands in the **Class AAA girls shot put** on Friday at the West Virginia state high school track and field championships The final result was golden.

Pepper-Jackson, 15, took home the class state title **with a personal best 38 feet, 11 3/4 inches** (11.88 meters). She also finished fourth in the discus competition on Saturday to help Bridgeport to a fifth-place finish in the final team standings.

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After the event, Pepper-Jackson declined to speak to any media, according to **WVNews.com**, but she told the **Associated Press last month:** “I’m just a normal kid and I just want to be on a sports team with my friends. That’s all I’m here for.”

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Trans high school athlete Becky Pepper-Jackson is competing in what may be her final W.V. girls track & field season, depending on SCOTUS.

By Karleigh Webb

Since the 2021, the newly minted state champion has challenged West Virginia’s “Save Women’s Sports Act” passed in 2021. The act is designed to keep transgender girls out of scholastic and intercollegiate athletics in the state.

The controversy away from the sport didn’t affect her performance in it. As a federal appeals court **blocked implementation of the law in 2024**, Pepper-Jackson was throwing her way to a county championship. In 2025, she blocked out the noise, which **included the objections from Republican West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey**, to earn third place in the discus and eighth in the shot put at her first high state championships.

There were no reports of protests at the meet this weekend, held at the University of Charleston (W.V.). over the weekend.

Whether Pepper-Jackson will have to opportunity to defend her championship is expected to be decided sometime before the start of the next academic year when the Supreme Court rules on **West Virginia vs. B.P.J.** This season and for seasons to come, her name will be listed as a state champion regardless of what decision is rendered.

While Becky was not commenting, her mom, Heather, **wrote a Mother's Day column for Lambda Legal** where she expressed admiration and love for her daughter's fight to play sports despite the backlash she has faced.

"Watching her bear the burden of our home state's discrimination against her breaks my heart. Watching her rise to it with bravery and wisdom beyond her years fills my heart 10 times over," Heather Jackson wrote.

"The court will issue its ruling soon. Whatever that decision brings, I believe we all want the same thing for our kids: For them to be loved, to give love, and to do what they love. …

"For me, there is no greater joy than seeing her big, beautiful smile when she's out on the field. That smile makes everything — the early morning meets and late night practices, the

hundreds of miles we drive across West Virginia for competitions, all the time spent freezing or sweating in the stands — worth it."

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